



MEETING SUMMARY

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2013
PUBLIC ACCESS OBJECTIVE
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.
815 S STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA

Meeting Objectives

Discuss and suggest revisions for the Related Actions associated with the Update 2013 Objective relating to Public Access to the State's Waterways, Lakes, and Beaches:

“Strengthen and protect human rights to the state's waterways, lakes, and beaches ensuring public access for cultural, recreational and economic purposes. Such rights and access will be consistent with maintaining healthy ecosystems.”

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

The Update 2013 Objectives Web-a-thon was held on June 13-14, 2013 to discuss the draft 17 Objectives and the associated Related Action for the Water Plan. Introductions were made around the room and online. Paul Massera, DWR, Program Manager Update 2013, welcomed everyone and noted that an online wrap up session will be conducted on July 9th, to conclude any items needing additional discussion. He explained that the workbook was prepared by DWR staff and subject matter experts, and is for discussion purposes only. The first few pages of this draft document provide definitions of terms and the Water Plan mission, vision and goals – which sets the context for the objectives and related actions. A brief review of the Public Access objective and related actions (found on pages 48-51 of the workbook) would be followed by discussions.

Overview

Jose Alarcon, DWR Project Team, provided brief background on how the objectives and related actions were developed. He and Francisco Guzman have reviewed the 37 Featured State Plans, related state agency plans with bearing on the Water Plan, and correlated the respective recommendations with the Water Plan objectives. These were forwarded to the subject matter experts for consideration in updating the related actions for each objective. Collectively, the objectives identify what is needed to accomplish the goals of the Water Plan. The related actions represent what is needed to accomplish each particular objective. The workbook contains a column for performance measures, which will help track each action and inform the next Water Plan Progress Report. Draft measures have been proposed for some of the objectives, and feedback is welcomed on potential performance measures – as well as the objectives and related actions.

NOTE: The DWR website went down as this item began, prohibiting participants from accessing the online link, which greatly reduced attendance. The item will be continued on July 9, 2013.



Document Walk Through

Cheryl Essex, State Parks Planning Chief, reviewed the Public Access Objective. She explained that the concept had been introduced at A Public AC meeting. It was noted that the term “protection” is embodied with the term “rights.” The first related action focusing on protecting (regulatory responsibilities), the second action emphasizes engaging in recreational planning, the third action underscores enhancing opportunities, and the fourth action seeks to protect, and engage Californians in, water-based recreation and tourism opportunities.

Related Actions

The proposed Related Actions, and the ensuing discussion, are presented below. Please note that the actions below have been abridged from the original text and the sub-actions are not included in their entirety:

General Discussion

- An inquiry was made as to what motivated the development of this objective. Ms. Essex replied that this objective can encourage the State to fulfill its obligations.
- It was noted that investments in the related action will provide local benefits.
- It would be helpful to inventory various state, local and federal plans to highlight where recreational opportunities are – or could be – addressed.
- This ties back to a previous suggestion to add a column about funded – to describe the level of funding committed to an item.
- The Finance Caucus tried to identify and break out the benefits and costs associated with multi-benefit projects. It is very difficult to say how much has been spent on providing multiple benefits.
 - There can be qualitative descriptions of funding.
 - This is similar to trying to quantify ecosystem benefits. The challenge lies in connecting the value and to a particular quantify to benefit, then trying to relate it back to the question of how to pay for it. Figuring that out is part of the next steps for the Finance Caucus.
 - The funding and management piece is complicated. For example, some State parks have been transferred to – or are managed by – local entities.
 - One of the difficulties is with the way budgets are created. There are distinctions between State operation and local assistance. Efforts may be taken on by programs or as individual projects. Budgets are public information, but they don’t sort well to IWM activities.
 - It would be helpful to take an example and illustrate the difficulties in trying to list the activities and costs associated with IWM efforts.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect and Enhance Public Access to State Waterways

June 13, 2013



1. State government will respect and vigorously protect waterways, lakes and beaches for beneficial public use. Item #a: The will support the regulatory responsibilities (several agencies listed, along with associated authority) that protect beneficial uses and other public access rights. Item #b: State conservancies will acquire and/or protect sensitive landscapes (several examples provided), and will protect and/or acquire land to maintain public access. Item #c: Protect recreational resource values threatened by climate change, using strategies of reinforcement, adaptation and/or retreat, as feasible. Item #d: In developing water resource projects, State government will protect and minimize impacts to cultural and recreational uses.

Discussion: Moved to July 9, 2013.

2. State government will, when resources are available, engage in statewide recreational research and planning so that investments in recreational resources and facilities are efficient, effective and meet the needs to all Californians. Item #a: Document and report on water-dependent recreational trends in California (including associated benefits and threats). Item #b: Assess the feasibility of incorporating public access facilities in IWM projects funded by the state and federal governments, and promote multi-benefit projects. Item #c: Collaboration between state conservation agencies and local agencies to systematically plan for maintaining or relocating recreational opportunities threatened by climate change or IWM projects. Item #d: State Parks will lead comprehensive recreation resource planning of the state's inland waterway and engage the public and interested stakeholders. Prioritization of facilities supporting recreation activities, especially those benefitting disadvantaged communities.

Discussion: Moved to July 9, 2013.

3. All State agencies with water-dependent recreation and tourism responsibilities will work with local agencies to enhance safe public access through recreational facilities and programs that provide multiple benefits. Item #a: State government will support or construct water-dependent recreation projects that provide multiple benefits (examples provided). Item #b: Encourage partnerships to expand water-dependent recreation and tourism in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, while minimizing impacts to non-recreational landowners. Item #c: Increase water-dependent recreation opportunities, on existing public lands and where feasible; pursue acquisition opportunities for open space and public access in areas where demand for access exceeds supply. Item #d: State agencies will prioritize construction of water-dependent recreation facilities identified in IRWM plans.

Discussion: Moved to July 9, 2013.

Objectives Web-a-thon

Protect and Enhance Public Access to State Waterways

June 13, 2013



4. All State agencies with water-dependent recreation and tourism responsibilities will cooperate with local agencies, businesses and the general public to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship to benefit public health, improve the environment and encourage resource-based tourism. Specific agencies (listed) will improve outreach and education to children and in disadvantage communities that will improve public health, support California's outdoor lifestyle and promote wise use of water resources. Item #a: Convene a task force to identify priority water-based tourism and recreational opportunities, and develop an education and outreach campaign. Item #b: Develop a Sierra Nevada Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Strategy to promote sustainable water-related recreation. Item #c: Ensure adequate funding to support sustainable water-based tourism, recreation and public access, by developing a five-year funding source portfolio. Item #d: State agencies will implement the above plans to promote sustainable tourism and recreational activities and public access.

Discussion:

- Regarding finances, wee general discussion comments on page 2.
- Moved to July 9, 2013.



Attendance

In-Room

Cheryl Essex, State Parks
Karl Longley, California Water Institute, UC Fresno

Emily Alejandrino, DWR, Water Plan Tribal Liaisons
Megan Fidell, DWR, RMS Coordinator, Progress Report Lead
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management
Paul Massera, DWR, Water Plan Program Manager
Lewis Moeller, DWR, Water Plan Project Manager
Elizabeth Patterson, DWR, Land Use Lead

Lisa Beutler, MWH, Water Plan Executive Facilitator
Judie Talbot, CCP, Facilitator

Webinar

Angela Avery, Sierra Nevada Conservance
Dave Bolland, Association of California Water Agencies
Luanna Kiger,